

Appl. No. 10/725,713
Amdt. dated June 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 24, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:**REMARKS:**

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowa (US Patent 2,631,399 in view of Sprague (US Patent 1,552,266. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Sowa and in view of Sprague and further in view of Tauton (US Patent 6,405,474). Claims 3, 5, 9-11, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are deemed allowable by the examiner if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Changes to the specification are intended to correct informalities in the specification noted by the applicant.

Claims 1 and 2 are canceled. Allowable claim 3 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and thus is now an independent claim. Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 3. With amended claim 4, at least one of the first and second barrel swivels of claim 3 may be replaced by a "link element including at least one rigid wire circlet having a diameter greater than said passageway of said float". Allowable dependent claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 4 and thus, claim 5 is now an independent claim. Claims 6-11 have been amended to depend from claim 5 instead of claim 4. Claims 6-11 have also been amended for form.

(Docket 3367W)

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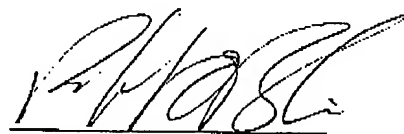
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Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 13. Claim 13 is canceled. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended for form. Claim 16 is a new dependent claim.

The applicant submits that, in accordance with the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner in the office action, independent claims 3, 5 and 12 as amended as well as the amended claims that depend on claims 5 and 12 now define allowable subject matter. The applicant also submits that dependent claim 4 (as amended) also defines allowable subject matter. Still further, the applicant submits that new claim 16 also defines allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the pending claims define allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O. Blinn
P.O. Box 75144
Wichita, KS 67275-0144
P.O. Reg. No.: 36,751

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Date